

Message from Director

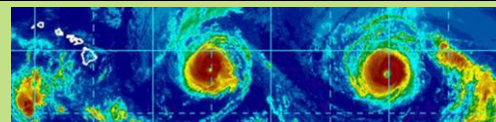
MO'OLELO PĀKA (PARK STORY)

Quarterly newsletter from the City and County of Honolulu Department of Parks and Recreation

April through June 2019

I hope you are having a fun and safe summer! These months are some of the most demanding part of the year, and it is astounding how many quality programs, projects, and events you all magnificently complete. The work you do truly enhances the quality of life for O'ahu residents and visitors, while playing a significant role in shaping our island culture. Some of the great recent examples include: the 61 Summer Fun programs with over 10,000 keiki, the removal of the comfort station at Mauna Lahilahi Beach Park, and the continued success of the Kākou for Parks Program. Through our private-public partnerships we have been able to receive gifts to construct dog parks at Kalo Place Mini Park and 'A'ala Park, renovate Lēahi and Makalei beach parks, and realize our newest park location (Centennial Park) in the heart of Waikīkī! All of these events and projects have been successful because of you, our amazing DPR 'ohana. From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank each of you and express my sincere appreciation for all of your hard work and efforts to make a positive impact in our community.

Are you prepared for the Hurricane Season?



The hurricane season officially began in June and runs through November, with the National Weather Service predicting an "above average" potential for storms this year (estimated 5 to 8 storms in that time period). We were very fortunate to have experienced minimal impacts from Hurricane Lane last year, but it served as a reminder that the time to prepare for a potential disaster is before the emergency arrives. Especially as Parks & Rec employees, who are likely to be called in action, it is important to take care of your loved ones before fulfilling your job duties. Click [here](#) to learn more about how to be prepared, including stocking food, water, and supplies, and stay tuned to local media for the latest on approaching storms.

"We add quality to life!"



92nd Annual Lei Day Celebration May 1

The 92nd Annual Lei Day Celebration was another great success! With 165 lei entries into the Lei Contest, and thousands of smiling faces, the tradition of aloha continued at Kapi'olani Park. Mahalo to all of the staff from across the island who assisted in this timeless tradition of aloha.



Pu'u 'o Hulu New Facilities May 3

One of our newest park locations received an innovative new comfort station and play apparatus. The bathrooms are family friendly, unisex stalls which open up to the park making them safer and easier to clean.



70th Mayor's Memorial Day May 27

We were extremely proud to host the third highest ranking military official, Admiral John Richardson, at this year's ceremony. More importantly, we met our goal of adorning every grave in Punchbowl with a lei. Mahalo!



Twilight Summer Concert Series

June 6 – July 26
There are nine opportunities to enjoy a wide range of live music at Foster and Wahiawā botanical gardens through these free events. From Bluegrass to bagpipes, Slack Key to song & dance, there are plenty of performance options to fit every taste.



OOPPS Art Exhibit June 17 - July 8

OOPPS = Original Oil Painting Pals. The talented artwork created this this unique Senior Club is on display in the Honolulu Hale Courtyard until the beginning of July. The pieces in the exhibit are as beautiful and diverse as the 25 kūpuna who created them.



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Mahalo to our Outstanding Employees!



Iris Fukunaga



Clyde Nagamine



Juan Halunajan



Raymond Tripp



J.C. Chang, Sheldon Alameda, Kawika Francisco

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Our **DPR and Botanical Garden Facebook and Instagram** feeds have been verified! Verified social media accounts, which have the little blue check mark, help to expand our followers, get them engaged with the content we post, and most importantly create a level of trust that the information posted on these accounts is official.
- We are set to have our first designated DPR disc golf course at **Kupuohi Neighborhood Park** in Waipahū. The Hawai'i Disc Golf Association is donating the baskets and installation for the course through a \$4,700 gift.
- Another private-public partnership will result in an off-leash dog park at **Kalo Place Mini Park** scheduled to open by September. The dog park is thanks to the Hawaiian Humane Society and their \$275,000 gift.
- Excellent progress is being made with the Department of Information Technology on the **Park Reservation Online System (PROS)**. It is our hope to have more and more of the system complete as the year's end approaches.
- Make sure to check out the **79th Annual Nā Hula Festival** on Sunday, Aug. 4 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Kapi'olani Park Bandstand. Hula dancers young and old, along with our 2019 Lei Court, will continue the tradition of the state's longest-running, annual, non-competitive hula event.
- The comfort station at **Mauna Lahilahi Beach Park** was removed in the beginning of April after the foundation was severely undermined due to the rising ocean. This represents the first DPR facility removed as a result of impacts from sea level rise along our shoreline.

Kākou for Parks Program Updates:

Since 2015, Mayor Caldwell and DPR have continued to show dedication towards revitalizing some of our aging or damaged facilities through this one-of-a-kind program. This has resulted in improvements to **156 different parks** around O'ahu, including:



Hau'ula Community Park



Petrie Community Park



Geiger Community Park

110

New & Refurbished Play Apparatus

85

Renovated Comfort Stations

315

Resurfaced Play Courts